

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

---

James Staup,	:	Civil Action No.: _____
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Integrity Financial Partners, Inc.; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	:	<b>COMPLAINT</b>
	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

---

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, James Staup, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

**JURISDICTION**

1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337.
3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

**PARTIES**

4. The Plaintiff, James Staup ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. The Defendant, Integrity Financial Partners, Inc. (“Integrity”), is a Kansas business entity with an address of 4370 W. 109th Street, Suite 10, Overland Park, Kansas 66211, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

6. Does 1-10 (the “Collectors”) are individual collectors employed by Integrity and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.

7. Integrity at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

#### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

##### **A. The Debt**

8. The Plaintiff is being contacted by the Defendants for a financial obligation (the “Debt”) incurred by his parents to a creditor (the “Creditor”) in connection to a personal credit card account.

9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Integrity for collection, or Integrity was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

##### **B. Integrity Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics**

12. The Defendants placed excessive calls to the Plaintiff in reference to the Debt.

13. During telephone conversations, the Defendants discussed the Debt with the Plaintiff.

14. The Defendants called the Plaintiff asking for Jacqueline, the Plaintiff's mother. Despite the Plaintiff having previously informed the Defendants that Jacqueline does not live at his residence, the Defendants continue to call and ask for Jacqueline.

15. The Plaintiff told the Defendants to stop contacting him. The Defendants, however, continued to call him.

16. The Defendants use rude and abusive language when speaking with the Plaintiff. The Defendants threatened the Plaintiff that until he cooperated with them to "update" their files, he could "enjoy" their telephone calls.

17. Further, in one voice message to the Plaintiff, a representative for the Defendant stated that it was "imperative" to call them otherwise "decisions will be made on your behalf."

### **C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages**

18. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

19. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

20. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

**COUNT I**

**VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, ET SEQ.**

21. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(1) in that Defendants contacted third parties and failed to identify themselves and further failed to confirm or correct location information.

23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.

24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(2) in that Defendants used profane and abusive language when speaking with the consumer.

25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(6) in that Defendants placed calls to the Plaintiff without disclosing the identity of the debt collection agency.

26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

27. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

28. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

**COUNT II**

**VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CREDIT EXTENSION**

**UNIFORMITY ACT, 73 P.S. § 2270, ET SEQ.**

29. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

30. The Plaintiff is a “consumer,” as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
31. The Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
32. The Defendant violated provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., which constitutes an unfair or deceptive practice under 73 P.S. § 2270.4(a).
33. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendant’s violations.

**COUNT III**

**INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION**

34. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
35. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, “One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.”
36. Pennsylvania further recognizes the Plaintiff’s right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus the Defendants violated Pennsylvania state law.
37. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff’s right to privacy by continually harassing Plaintiff with numerous telephone calls.
38. The telephone calls made by the Defendant to Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, “hounding the plaintiff,” and, “a substantial burden to her existence,” thus satisfying the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) requirement for an invasion of privacy.

39. The conduct of the Defendant in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.

40. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.

41. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### **VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, 73 P.S. § 201-1, ET SEQ.**

42. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

43. The Defendant's violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act constitute per se violations under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

44. The Defendant's acts were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law.

45. As a result of the Defendant's violations, the Plaintiff has suffered ascertainable losses entitling the Plaintiff to actual, statutory and treble damages.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A)

against the Defendants;

3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and 73 P.S. § 2270.5 against the Defendants;
4. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 2270.5(c);
5. Actual damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
6. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
7. Treble damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
8. Actual damages from the Defendants for all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;
9. Punitive damages; and
10. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

**TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS**

Dated: May 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Jody B. Burton

Jody B. Burton, Esq.  
Bar No.: 71681  
LEMBERG & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.  
1100 Summer Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Stamford, CT 06905  
Telephone: (203) 653-2250  
Facsimile: (877) 795-3666  
Attorneys for Plaintiff